

*Headquarters of the Asst. Excise Commissioner,
Salt Factory Circle.*

15. **MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR** (*Pattanapuram cum Shencotta*):

(1) Are the Government aware that the Assistant Excise Commissioner of the Salt Factory Circle is permanently stationed at Nagercoil and not at Tamaracolum?

(2) Have the Government permitted him to hold his office at Nagercoil; if not, by whom was he permitted?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*). (1) No, The Assistant Excise Commissioner, Salt Factories Division, is stationed at Tamaracolum, which is his headquarters. He does not live at Nagercoil.

(2) In view of the answer to part (1), this question does not arise.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencotta*): It is stated in the answer —

The Assistant Excise Commissioner, Salt Factories Division, is stationed at Tamaracolum, which is his headquarters. He does not live at Nagercoil.

May I know whether his family is permanently stationed at Nagercoil?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): That is a separate question in regard to which I claim notice.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencotta*): Has he got a rented building at Nagercoil?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): That also does not arise.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencotta*): Has he a building at Tamaracolum?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Government have no information.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencotta*): It is stated in the answer that he is stationed at Tamaracolum. Has he got a house at Tamaracolum in his possession?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Government are not aware.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencotta*): Then, how was it possible for the Government to state in the answer that he does not live at Nagercoil and that he is stationed at Tamaracolum?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Government have not called for the information as to whether he possesses a house at Tamaracolum or not.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencotta*): Will the Government please enquire into it?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): So far as the Government are concerned, that enquiry is not necessary.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencotta*): I think a house is highly necessary for a man to live in. (*Laughter.*)

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Certainly, there are a number of houses at Tamaraculam.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencotta*): So far as I know, he has not even rented a house at Tamaraculam. Will the Government be pleased to enquire whether he is living permanently at Tamaraculam?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): That is in the answer.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencotta*): I want to know whether he is *actually* living there.

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): That exactly is what is stated in the answer.

Agreement with the Cape Comorin Company.

16. MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram cum Shencotta*):

(1) Will the Government be pleased to state whether under the conditions of their agreement with the Government, the licensees of the Cape Comorin Company Allom were originally required to deliver to the Government all the salt manufactured by them at 2 annas 9 pies per maund?

(2) Were not the Government making a profit of 7 annas 3 pies per maund as 'recoveries' by the sale of such salt?

(3) Under what circumstances were the licensees of the allom required to deliver only 70,000 maunds of salt to Government at 2 annas 9 pies per maund and permitted to sell the balance on payment of duty?

(4) Have the Government further reduced the quantity of salt to be delivered to the Government annually to 50,000 maunds, and under what circumstances was this reduction effected?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (1), Yes.

(2) The rate of 7 annas 3 pies per maund referred to does not represent the profit derived by the Government by the sale of the salt. A reduction from this has to be made on account of establishment and contingent charges for the factory.

(3) The factory, situated as it is practically at the mouth of the Pazhayar river at the shore-end of the lake, is, as a consequence, placed at a greater disadvantage as regards brine supply when compared with the factories situated nearer the source of brine supply. The yield in the factory was therefore going down from year to year. The income the company obtained from the factory was too small to pay any dividend to the share-holders. The company was also unable to invest any amount to improve the factory and at the same time carry on manufacture. In view of the above facts, the company was allowed by the Government the same privilege of private sale as was enjoyed by the licensees of the neighbouring Excise factories. But it was asked to deliver 75,000 maunds annually and not 70,000 maunds.